GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:455
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
DESALINATION PLANTS IN VILLAGES
Jagannath Dr. M.;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the desalination process to ensure year round supply of drinking water to coastal villages;

(b) if so, whether the Government has ever worked out the cost of desalinated water supply as drinking water in villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the villages selected for this purpose; and

(e) the time by which the large scale desalination plants are likely to be installed in the rural areas to meet drinking water shortage?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.455 to be answered on 26/8/2004

(a) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supplement the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and technical assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). States are to utilize 15% of ARWSP allocation on projects to tackle water quality problems, including salinity, on 75:25 funding basis between the Centre and the States.

(b) & (c) The cost of desalinated drinking water supply depends on a number of factors like salt concentration, type of technology used, capacity of plant, availability of infrastructure etc. The Working Group on Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation for the Tenth Five Year Plan in the year 2001 had estimated the average per capita costs of a desalination plant of 10 lpcd supply level as Rs. 700/-, and of supply from alternative safe source at 40 lpcd level as Rs. 1200/-.

(d) & (e) The State Governments can set up desalination plants, wherever required, within their powers and such proposals need not be sent to Government of India.